TRANSCRIPT—LINDA GARREN

Interviewee: Linda Garren

Interviewer: Tealey Ellis and Judith Robertson

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Transcriber: Philip Blocklyn

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Tealey Ellis: In looking at your life history form here, I see that you were born in Buncombe County, so if you could give us the, whether it was hospital or home, the exact location where you were born.

Linda Garren: I was born in the hospital.

TE: Which hospital?

LG: I may have to look at my birth certificate. I think it was Saint Joseph, but it may have been called another little hospital back then. I can't remember.

TE: That's close, that's close. Being born here makes you a real native

LG: Yes

TE: Which is a proud thing. Give us your parents' names and where they were born.

LG: My father's name was Otis Cleveland Huntley and he was born in Black Mountain. My mother's name was Alma Irene Earwood and she was born in Buncombe County.

TE: What type of work did your parents do?

LG: My father was a farmer for a long time until after the last World War. Then he worked for Suburban Propane gas company for a good while and saved up and started this, built the motor court--

TE: And that was the--

LG: Shady Brook Motor Court.

And tell us its location?

LG: It was on US 74. That was pretty much the address.

TE: And in a reference point for people that didn't live then or from here, can you describe now with other highways where that property would have been?

LG: It's where the interstate and 74 intersect. It was located on the entrance to going toward Black Mountain on the interstate. That was 74. 74 is still there, so it's right where it splits, near exit 55 and across the street. You go toward Black Mountain.

TE: By any chance do you have any idea of what kind of acreage was involved with that land?

LG: It had to be at least three to four acres.

TE: How long was the Shady Brook there in that location?

LG: From 1953 until, it was in operation from 1953 until about 1965, maybe? Or maybe a little before that, we had to shut it down, because the state did come through to buy out for the interstate coming through.

TE: How much time, do you know how much time your parents were given to make up their mind and settle on an agreement?

LG: They may have given them a year altogether, I'm not sure. The man that worked with my mother and father on it was very nice to them and tried to work out a good deal with

them. But of course, it wasn't what my father wanted for the place. But it seems like they gave him about a year to come to terms with it.

TE: What are your memories of Shady Brook, as a child and growing up?

LG: Well, of course it was where I lived as a child. I was always outside playing with my friends, and the creek ran behind the court, and I was always getting in the creek playing

Judith Robertson: That was Gashes Creek?

LG: Gashes Creek, yes. The people coming to rent the rooms was always a lot of fun for me because I got to meet so many people. Families, individuals. Everybody would, they would rent a room, and most of them would come out in the evening and sit on the porches. And we would always sit around and start talking, or if there was children, I'd get to play with the children. So, I enjoyed that.

TE: By chance do you remember what might have been the nearest eatery place that people might have gone to eat while they were staying at Shady Brook?

LG: I'll have to look up the date that my father built the café that went along with the court. It wasn't there originally. They did have the café for several years, but they had to close it down because it was too hard to do it all. Oh, the closest eatery. It'd have to be down in Biltmore somewhere, and I don't even know what that might have been, because we didn't have McDonald's, we didn't have any of that. The Land of the Sky restaurant I think was down there, I think it was down in Biltmore.

JR: Where the Mexican restaurant is now.

LG: It's right across from

JR: Diagonally from Wendy's

LG: Wendy's, yeah. It was there for a long, oh, and Hot Shot, the Hot Shot Café, that was there.

TE: The other one was called Land of the Sky Café?

LG: Land of the Sky.

JR: They made great breakfast.

LG: Wonderful food.

JR: Otherwise, they'd have to go to Tunnel Road. Babe Maloy's or one of those.

LG: Oh, yeah, Babe Maloy's was there. Wink's. A place called Wink's.

JR: And they had a place that, the one that had the chipped ham, I can't think of the name of it right now.

LG: I can't either. I should have read up on some of it

JR: You were young then.

LG: Oh, yes, I was just 6, 5, between 3 and 6. By the time I became a teenager, they started coming around saying they were going to put an interstate through here.

TE: You mentioned and also showed us in some pictures of what the Shady Brook looked like when your father first built it. Would you describe what it looked like on the outside and then later what happened and why?

LG: When he first built, he built the building in partial sections really. There were four rooms to begin with and then another little house, a kitchenette house. It was built out of logs, had a log exterior. People just, what I was told was that they didn't want to stay in a log place. They didn't want the log buildings.

TE: More modern

LG: they wanted it modern, yeah. So, when he added on the other, it had eight rooms, total, and when he added on the other four rooms, they started bricking it over and cementing over, making it look different. But the logs were still there, they just were covered up with the bricks.

TE: You mentioned also in some discussion that we were having before we started the recording about a flood and the effect that that had. Describe that.

LG: Did I say ’58 or ’68? I can’t keep dates in my head. There were several. The worst one was in ’68.

TE: Worst flood in ’68.

LG: Because it flooded so much, so many of the motel rooms. Before that we had been flooded before, but it had not got in the rooms. In ’68 when it got in the rooms, that pretty much condemned it, and then there wasn’t any aid to help you restore anything. We couldn’t keep renting. There had been other floods, the creek would rise up and come all the way out to 74, to the highway.

TE: So, after that flood in ’68 then was when your father closed?

LG: Yeah, he couldn’t rent it any more after that.

TE: What did he do after that?

LG: He started a construction company with my brothers. It was called Huntley Construction. It’s still in existence, one of my brothers is still running it, my other brother died last year that was helping him. But it’s still going.

TE: Your father would be very pleased about that, that continuity of family, and that’s, with all the interviews that Judith and I have done over the course of this year and a half maybe,

family and continuity with traditions has been something that we see time after time after time. I think that's one of the things that make Fairview such a great place.

LG: Yes, yes. There was a lot of folks that was like that back then, just worked together.

TE: After closing Shady Brook in 1968, did your mother work outside the home?

LG: No, she always just helped take care of the court. She got to clean a lot of the rooms. She made a lot of beds.

TE: You have children?

LG: Yes.

TE: Do they live in Fairview?

LG: They live on some property that we have, yes. It's off of Hemphill Road.

TE: And grandchildren?

LG: No.

TE: How long did your father farm, because you mentioned at one time he was a farmer.

LG: At least I would say fifteen, twenty years. He had cattle and

TE: What kind of crops?

LG: Basically, the crops they grew, I think was for their selves. The farming he did was mostly with the animals.

TE: Cattle

LG: Cattle.

TE: Any of your brothers interested in farming?

LG: No [laughs]. No.

TE: When your father was farming for those maybe fifteen years, do you know if he hired any help?

LG: Not that I know of. He possibly could have, but I don't know. I wasn't around those years.

TE: You were gone then.

LG: I hadn't been born, really. I was a late-life child that came along.

TE: What do you think for you were some in the past and currently some of the best aspects of living in Fairview?

LG: Well, everyone was always friendly, we had people coming around all the time. Everybody knew everybody. You just felt really close to home, no matter where you were at, you felt like you were home. You could walk distances and not be afraid or anything, even as a child. It was the community being close together. But then when the interstate come and everybody had to move out, we lost all that.

TE: That's what they call progress.

LG: Yeah. The progress.

TE: Where did you go to elementary school?

LG: Oakley.

TE: And high school?

LG: At Reynolds. I think they call it the middle school now? That was my high school.

TE: How old is Reynolds High School?

LG: The one they have now? I don't know. It was built a lot later.

TE: What other ways do you think, and when I say neighborhood is kind of like the general area of Fairview and where you lived, in addition to property being bought for the interstate and highway, what other changes have you seen in Fairview?

LG: A lot more traffic, that's for sure. Everyone got separated, so we lost the connections with everybody, because we weren't, people had to go in so many different directions. Fairview has really grown. There was not that many houses, they were off the main road, most of them, when I was growing up. There were a lot of folks here, but they weren't right on the main road so much. And all the housing developments of course, weren't here, they were single-family homes or farms.

JR: Did your family go to Asheville to shop?

LG: Yes, and we rode the bus. It came to that little Riddle's grocery that I mentioned earlier. That was where the bus would come and then head back to Asheville.

JR: You pretty much had to spend the day in town, didn't you?

LG: Yeah,

JT: Because it came once in the morning and back again in the evening

LG: Just certain times, yeah.

TE: As a teenager, what did you and your friends do for entertainment?

LG: Sometimes we would walk over to Rec Park

JR: East Asheville. Did you go to the East Asheville one?

LG: It's the one off of Gashes Creek Road. I don't know if they changed the name or not.

JR: Azalea

LG: Yeah, it's near Azalea. They had, of course the swimming pool's still there. They had rides, a lot of rides, and places for people just to hang out.

JR: They didn't have the nature center there?

LG: It was a very, very small portion of it, very small.

JR: And you all walked over there?

LG: Oh, yeah, we would walk.

JR: That's a haul.

TE: How far would that be?

LG: Two to three miles from our house. And we'd be out to play ball, catch fireflies. It was very simple playthings we played with.

TE: When you were a teenager and you were dating, where did you and your friends or dates go? Did you go into Asheville? What kind of things?

LG: Usually, it would be uptown. At that time Asheville was still thriving uptown. And that's where the theaters were, movie theaters.

TE: Do you remember the names?

LG: Imperial and Plaza Theaters. That's where we would go to see movies and just hang out at town

If you went for a bite to eat, where might you have gone?

LG: Babe Maloy's. We would hang out at the little drive-ins on Tunnel Road. We really didn't go in restaurants, we wanted to hang out at the drive-ins. When I say Asheville was still thriving at that time, not many years after I was a teenager, Asheville went down, the city...

JR: Because they built the mall

LG: and it is revitalized now, like everything, but there for a long time you just didn't go uptown. We would go like to Woolworth or to Kress's

TE: That was my next question. When you went shopping in town, what stores might you have shopped at?

LG: Woolworth and Kress's was where we'd hang out. There was a store uptown my mother would go to called Charles, the Charles Store.

TE: Was it a dress shop?

LG: Yeah, it was almost where BB&T building is at. She would go there a lot, and Bon Marché was uptown. Those were the two main stores I remember her going to uptown. We had a Penney's, we had a Penney's up there.

JR: Ivey's

LG: Ivey's, yeah, Ivey's was there.

TE: Back to taking the bus into town for a minute, do you remember what the fare was, to ride the bus?

LG: Something like a nickel or a dime. It wasn't very much.

TE: Do you, you mentioned earlier about closeness of community and when highways came through people spreading out and going to different locations, that sense of community that you had prior to that, what do you think the sense of community is now in Fairview?

LG: Well, where I'm at folks are still pretty much, we sort of holler back and forth a lot, which was done a lot when I was young. If you wanted to talk to your neighbor, you just hollered.

JR: Was that because the group of people that were in the area where you grew up, all of them moved to same area in Oakley?

LG: You mean, after the interstate came through?

JR: When they had to leave, was it the same people who moved in mass or did you make a new community where your dad moved?

LG: We made a new community, because everybody went in so many different directions. I would have loved if everybody'd come back in close, but it didn't happen that way.

JR: So, you made a new community but you've been there a long time now, so it'slike family now.

LG: Yeah.

TE: Do you feel safe in Fairview?

LG: Oh, yeah. Yeah. Where we live

JR: You don't live in Fairview, do you?

LG: No

JR: You actually live in Oakley, is that correct?

LG: When I was growing up, it was called part of Biltmore Township. When we would get our mail, it would be addressed to Biltmore. And it was called Gashes Creek community. It wasn't really called Fairview where this was located.

JR: But where you live now.

LG: Well, I think now we're considered part of Fairview. Hemphill area.

JR: Hemphill's the first big road to the left after you get onto 74.

LG: Yes, after you pass the light going up

TE: A little earlier you mentioned and described very well the flood in '68 that caused your father to have to close Shady Brook. In addition to that flood in 1968, do you recall any other natural disasters that happened in Fairview, in this area? Floods, storms

LG: There were other floods in other years I can, I was still a small child or small girl when there was another pretty big flood that came through. The creek was rising. It looked like a river rather than a creek. There were other years that it got up.

TE: By any chance do you remember if your dad or maybe a grandparent, grandfather or grandmother sharing stories of maybe their life in Fairview?

LG: My grandmother, my father was raised in Black Mountain. I can remember her saying that after she got married which was in the mid-1800s that she didn't get to see her family for like three months because it was such a long distance, which was maybe five or six miles, and they just couldn't get back to see, and it always made her sad because she wanted to be around her family.

JR: Gosh it's hard to imagine, isn't it?

LG: That short a distance and you can't get there, and they couldn't take the time either, because they. My grandfather originally was a carpenter, so they had to work, and she had children. Before my father, we lived in a place up in Oakley before we had the motor court. And before that my mother and daddy lived in what was called Lover's Loop. They had a place there, and that place got taken by the Blue Ridge Parkway. So, they've lost two homes to roads.

TE: Could you be more specific about where Lovers Loop was?

LG: Lovers Loop? You go down to Avondale Road. Well, this is the way you get to it now, not back then. After you cross that little bridge, there is a place to turn to the right there. That used to be a gravel road up through there, it would come back out around onto 74, which it doesn't now. That was all cut off. But it was called Lovers Loop.

TE: Do we know why?

LG: I think there were a few lovers caught. It was sort of secluded and a good place to go parking way back when.

TE: I'm glad we have that for the record.

LG: They had a home back in there, somewhere. Part of that road is still there, you can get to it off of the Parkway, Lovers Loop. They had a home there, and when the Parkway came through, they had to have that part, too.

TE: Linda, are there any questions about a topic of your family, the Shady Brook or just general questions that we haven't asked you. Or information that you have that you wanted to share that I haven't asked about, because we'd love to hear it if there's something that we've missed.

LG: The only thing was the neighbors that was close by, one was a grocery store next to us that was called Wilson's grocery. And then just a little ways down the road was one called Riddle's grocery. I don't know if anyone's got information on them or not.

TE: We'll look into that.

LG: That was our neighbors there. And then Miss Hauser lived across from us, which her place is still way up you can't see it like you could when 74 was there. Those were our closest neighbor's.

TE: Judith, do you have any questions?

JR: I'm just interested to know. I don't think we talked about your work life at all. Did you and your husband work in the Fairview area? Your husband, what did he do?

LG: He was a carpenter at one time. Then he was drafted. I spent, let's see, part of '67. '68, and '69 in Germany with him. And then when we moved back here, he continued to be a carpenter and then I started a family, so I wasn't working outside the home then, at all.

JR: She had written down receptionist

LG: Oh, that was later, after my children got into middle school and high school, I got a... worked for a doctor in a doctor's office as a receptionist.

JR: Was that here in Fairview?

LG: No, it was near Candler, I guess, or Smoky Park Highway, that's what the name of it was. I had to stop and think.

TE: Linda, you had mentioned earlier as well that your father at one time had been a farmer for about fifteen or so years, and your brothers continuing as farmers, is that correct?

LG: No. They helped my father because they were older than me, when he was farming, but they were still young boys. When he had to shut the motor court down, he started a construction business with heavy equipment, which is still in operation. My brothers kept it going. It's still under the name Huntley Construction.

JR: You just touched on so many things that we have not heard about before and it's so interesting, and we appreciate your coming in and sharing your memories with us.

TE: It's been a pleasure, so thank you again, and we'll talk to Jaime about some scanning. Thanks a lot.

LG: Thank you

END OF FILE 1

BEGINNING OF FILE 2

This is Judith Robertson, continuing the interview with Linda Garren.

LG: The best I can remember, I was probably around nine or ten, when I remember seeing my grandfather who originally had been a carpenter, but as he got older he could not do that. He started making potholders and little wooden ornaments, like spoons and forks and fixed them to hang the potholders on. He would carry his items in a small suitcase and walk up 74 on out to Fairview, different places, selling his potholders and wooden ornament things to folks to make some money for him and grandma to live on. I would see him and start waving at him.

JR: Did her sell them through stores? Did he deliver them to stores? Did people just stop on the side of the road?

LG: He would go house to house. People then did that a lot, so he would meet people on the side of the road. And folks knew him because they pretty much knew the Huntleys.

JR: And he sold enough to make it worthwhile?

LG: Yeah, he did make some money on it, while he was able to walk and do that. He did a lot of walking, because he lived out in Oakley and part of the time near Lovers Loop when he was doing this.

JR: And he walked all of the way up into Fairview.

LG: Yeah. I don't know how far he went, because he would just walk and come back late in the evening. That was just part of their survival.

JR: Well, thank you for telling us about that.

LG: Thank you.

END OF INTERVIEW